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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 201939Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7020
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS : PFOR/FR
SUBJECT : FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO SOCIALIST MEETING
IN ELSINORE

SUMMARY : THE SUMMIT OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS IN DENMARK WAS A MAJOR TOPIC OF FRENCH MEDIA TUESDAY AFTER LIGHT COVERAGE ON MONDAY. TWO TOPICS EMPHASIZED WERE: (1) THE DIFFERENCE, EMPHASIZED BY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, BETWEEN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH NORTH EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS ON THE ONE HAND AND LATIN SOCIALISTS ON THE OTHER MUST OPERATE, AND (2) REACTION BY PCF TO MITTERRAND'S STATEMENTS THAT SOCIALISTS ARE STEALING PCF THUNDER IN FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. LES ECHOS AND THE COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS FOCUSED
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ON MITTERRAND'S PLEA IN FAVOR OF A POLICY OF A UNITED

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LEFT IN THE LATIN COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN EUROPE AS THE ONLY HOPE OF ACHIEVING POWER -- A POLICY STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OF NORTHERN EUROPE, E.G., SCHMIDT AND WILSON. THEY ALSO UNDERSCORED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NORTHERNERS' PREFERENCE FOR A LARGE DEGREE OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND THE SOUTHERNERS' BENT FOR STATE PLANNING.

2. LE MONDE UNDERSCORED THE SUMMIT'S DECISION TO GRANT FINANCIAL AID TO THE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTIES. IT ALSO NOTED A RESERVED ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TINDEMANS REPORT "WHICH EVEN THE GERMANS JUDGED HARDLY ACCEPTABLE," BUT WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE REASONS.

3. MOST OF THE TUESDAY MORNING PAPERS FOUND SOUR NOTES BETWEEN WHAT MITTERRAND SAID IN ELSINORE AND WHAT COMMUNIST LEADER GEORGES MARCHAIS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE FRENCH STATE-OWNED RADIO MONDAY NIGHT. BOTH STRONGLY FAVORED UNITY OF THE LEFT, BUT MARCHAIS REJECTED OUTRIGHT MITTERRAND'S POSITION THAT THE STRATEGY OF A UNITED LEFT HAS BEEN PRIMARILY BENEFICIAL TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY (30 PERCENT OF VOTERS) WHILE THE COMMUNIST PARTY (18 PERCENT) IS NO LONGER THE SPEARHEAD OF THE WORKING CLASS.

4. FIGARO EMPHASIZED MITTERRAND'S STATEMENT IN ELSINORE THAT A CRISIS OVER THE PROBLEM OF CIVIL LIBERTY MIGHT BREAK OUT WITHIN THE FRENCH CP AND EXPECTED THAT STATEMENT TO REVIVE THE POLEMICS BETWEEN FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. IN THE SAME VEIN, AURORE SAID, "THE ELSINORE TALKS HAVE BROUGHT TO LIGHT APPARENTLY INSUPERABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF WESTERN EUROPE."
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